Implementation of Chelliah Committee Recommendations

952. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the recommendations of the Chelliah Committee have been accepted by Government;

(b) if so, what is the number of recommendations that have been implemented so far; and

(c) the date by when all the recommendations will be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) and (b) So far as recommendations made by the Committee regarding Direct Taxes are concerned, a substantial portion thereof had been accepted and implemented through the Finance Act, 1992. Reduction in the number of slabs of income on which tax was to be levied in the case of individuals and HUFs, restructuring of capital gains taxation, introduction of the presumptive scheme of taxation and recasting of wealth-tax are some of the examples. The recommendation relating to raising the exemption limit for purposes of gift-tax stands reflected in the Finance Bill, 1993.

As regards the recommendations regarding Indirect Taxes, the following important changes have been effected in the Customs and Excise duty structure having regard to long-term recommendations of the Tax Reforms Committee :—

(i) Peak rate of import duty was reduced from 110 per cent to 85 per cent with a few exceptions like alcoholic beverages and baggage;

(ii) Auxiliary duty of customs was merged with basic customs duty;

(iii) Import duty on projects and general machinery was reduced from 55 per cent to 35 per cent ad valorem;

(iv) Import duty on metals was generally reduced;

(v) Import duty on chemicals and petrochemicals was reduced;

(vi) The import duty on specified raw materials, piece parts and components for electronics industries was reduced from 40 per cent, 60 per cent, 80 per cent to 20 per cent, 35 per cent and 50 per cent respectively.

As regards excise duties, duty on items which attracted high rates has been generally reduced, including those on a large number of capital goods and instruments. Excise duty structure on metals was generaly rationalised by reducing the number of rates applicable.

(c) No time-frame has been fixed for the implementation of the Committee's recommendations.

Assistance Under United States Point Four Programme

953. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO : DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the quantum and type of technical assistance that has been received during the last three years under the United States Point Four Programme; and

(b) what are the new proposals under this programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) The quantum of Development assistance obligated to India by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) during the last three U. S. fiscal years (October to September) under various projects is as follows :

	US dollar Million
Fiscal Year 1990	21.440
Fiscal Year 1991	29.506
Fiscal Year 1992	46.658

Technical Assistance is one of the components of almost all projects which inter-alia include visit of US Technical experts to India, organising conferences/ workshops, training of officers, etc.

(b) The new proposals to be funded would become clear only after discussions have been completed and agreements concluded.

स्टेट बैंक आफ इंदौर की कोटा स्थित शाखा का बंद किया जाना

954. **श्री राम नरेश यादव** : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि ?

(क) स्टेट बैंक आफ इन्दौर की कोटा स्थित शाखा चालू वर्ष में अप्रैल के दूसरे सप्ताह में कितने दिनों तक गैर-कानूनी ढंग से बंद रही;

(ख) उसके क्या कारण थे;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि स्थानीय जनता के प्रतिनिधियों ने शाखा को बंद रखने के विरोध में कलक्टर और श्रमायुक्त को शिकायतें भेजी थीं;

(घ) यदि हां, तो इन शिकायतों का क्या परिणाम निकला है; और

(ङ) इस शाखा के अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही की गयी है; यदि उनके विरुद्ध कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की गई है तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा. अबरार अहमद) : (क) से (ङ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और यथा उपलब्ध सूचना सभा पटल पर रख दी जायेगी।

Vacant Posts in Income Tax Depatment

955. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA :

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of posts that are lying vacant in the Income Tax Department;

(b) whether these posts are proposed to be filled by transfer of surplus employees from other redundant Offices; and

(c) what is the number of such surplus employees under the Finance Ministry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) 5277 posts in Groups A, B, C and D were lying vacant in the Income Tax Department as on 31-12-1992.

(b) The vacancies are filled by promotion and or by direct recruitment in accordance with the Recruitment Rules. The surplus employees nominated from Surplus Pool are also appointed against the vacancies in Group C and D.

(c) There are no surplus employees in the Secretariat of the Ministry of Finance.